

settled at Lima, and was made Professor of Languages and Natural History in the National College at Guadalupe near that city. He also became an active contributor on scientific subjects to one of the leading journals of the Peruvian capital. Having transmitted some living animals to the Zoological Society of London, Nation was elected a Corresponding Member of that Society in 1865, and shortly afterwards commenced a series of communications on the birds of the vicinity of Lima, which he sent to Sclater, at that time Secretary to the Society, along with specimens of the species to which they related. These communications were published in the Society's 'Proceedings' from 1866 to 1885*. His last communication to the Zoological Society was received in 1890, when he forwarded a small collection of birds' bones obtained from the Peruvian nitrates. In the spring of last year Prof. Nation, being sadly out of health, determined to return to England, but had a rough voyage, and reached his native land, after 57 years' absence, in a very feeble state. Sclater visited him in July last, while he was staying with some relatives at Clapham, and found him slightly improved in health for the time. But this improvement did not last, and he died on October the 19th, at his friends' house, at the age of 81 years. His name is commemorated in Science by two Peruvian birds which he discovered and which Sclater named after him—*Myiobius nationi* and *Pyrgisoma nationi*.

VII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Balston, Shepherd, and Bartlett on Kentish Birds.*

[Notes on the Birds of Kent. By R. J. Balston, C. W. Shepherd, and E. Bartlett. London: R. H. Porter, 1907. Pp. i-xx, 1-465; with nine plates and a map.]

It is somewhat difficult to give a correct idea of the contents of this volume, which we hail with pleasure as the first attempt to write a systematic account of the

* See P. Z. S. 1866, p. 96; 1867, p. 340; 1869, p. 146; 1871, p. 496; 1881, p. 484; and 1885, p. 277.

Birds of the whole county. On the one hand, we have here much more than the stray notes on Ornithology which the title might seem to imply, and much information from various quarters has been incorporated in the text; on the other hand, the book reads somewhat like a work on British Ornithology generally, with records for Kent in the foreground. Many pages are devoted to accounts of the habits of our commoner species which would certainly find no place in a manual on the birds of the county proper; and the records themselves, while given, as is fairly stated, for what they are worth, are not sifted for the reader, but are left to his own discrimination and judgment. The Introduction furnishes us with an account of the general physical features of the Kentish country, which may be of value in the future if the coal-fields are opened up successfully and spoil the scenery; and the occurrences of certain rare birds are recorded, with coloured plates of eight of them by Smit, namely, the White-spotted Bluethroat, the Dartford Warbler, the Masked Shrike, the Crossbill (jr.), the Lesser Kestrel, the Kentish Plover, the Avocet, and the Sandwich Tern. Of especial interest are the accounts of the breeding of the Golden Oriole, Chough, Stone-Curlew, Garganey, and several other uncommon species, while we notice with pleasure the constant recurrence of the names of our fellow-members Dr. N. F. Ticehurst and Mr. M. J. Nicoll in connexion with the records from the Dungeness district.

2. *Bertoni on Birds from Paraguay.*

[Contribucion para el conocimiento de las Aves del Paraguay, por A. de Winkefried Bertoni. An. Cient. Paraguayos, No. 3. Asuncion, 1904.]

This is a series of short notes on the birds of Paraguay, which was only received in August last, though apparently published in 1904. The most interesting species is, perhaps, *Gisella iheringi* (Sharpe), which, however, seems to be nearly the same as *G. harrisi* (Cass.).

3. *Blackwelder and Richmond on Birds from China.*

[Research in China. Expedition of 1903-4, under the direction of Bailey Willis. Report on Zoology, by Eliot Blackwelder. Carn. Inst. of Washington. Vol. i. pt. ii. Washington, D.C., 1907.]

This is the zoological portion of the report of an expedition sent out by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (1903-4) to China. The collection of birds, containing examples of 49 species, has been studied by Dr. Charles W. Richmond, and the specimens have been deposited in the U.S. National Museum. They are now enumerated and short field-notes are attached to most of them. *Ibidorhynchus struthersi* was met with in the mountain-valleys of Chi-li and Shan-si. *Olbiorchilus fumigatus idius* is a new subspecies from Shantung and Chi-li. Coloured figures are given of *Calandrella brachydactyla dukhunensis*, *Olbiorchilus fumigatus idius*, *Pericrocotus brevirostris*, *Buchanga leucogenis*, *Pardaliparus venustulus*, *Emberiza castaneiceps*, and *E. yunnanensis*.

4. *Bulletin of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg.*

[Bulletin de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St. Pétersbourg. V^e Série. Classe Physio-Math. Vols. xxii. (1905), xxiii. (1905), xxiv. (1906).]

These three volumes, of which we have lately received copies, contain four ornithological papers by Dr. Bianchi to which attention should be called, although, from their being written in Russian, we can give very little information about them. The first (vol. xxii. p. 37) relates to the genera *Leptopæcile* and *Lophobasileus*; the second (vol. xxiii. p. 41) to "*Kaznakowia*," which appears to be a new generic name for *Babax weddelli* of Dresser; the third (xxiii. p. 49) to the species of *Cryptolopha*, *Abrornis*, and *Tickellia*, of Central Asia; and the fourth (vol. xxiv. p. 83) to a new species of Pheasant (*Phasianus suchschanensis*) from Western China. While we cannot complain of authors employing their own language if they prefer it, we think that it would be advisable that such papers as these, which are of interest to zoologists

all over the world, should be accompanied by short abstracts of their contents written either in Latin or in one of the familiar languages of Western Europe.

5. *Chapman on the Warblers of North America.*

[The Warblers of North America. By Frank M. Chapman, with the Co-operation of other Ornithologists. New York: Appleton & Co., 1907.]

The Wood-Warblers (Mniotiltidæ) are one of the most characteristic families of the Nearctic Region, extending in a subdued form far into the Neotropical, but not met with, except, possibly, as very rare stragglers, anywhere on this side of the Atlantic. No group of North-American Passeres exceeds the Wood-Warblers in their elegant forms and brilliant colours. They consequently form a most attractive subject for an illustrated Monograph, such as Mr. Chapman gives us in the present volume.

The work is commenced by well-written essays on the general characters of the group, their distribution, migration, songs, nesting-habits, and mortality, the mortality being alleged to be "higher than that which prevails in any other family of American Birds." Besides other unfortunate circumstances, the Warblers are apparently much harassed by the Cow-birds, which are especially prone to select them as foster-parents. It is not unusual, we are told, to find three Cow-bird's eggs in one nest of a Warbler. Moreover, the poor Warblers often have to bring up the Cow-birds instead of their own legitimate children.

In the systematic order and nomenclature of his chosen group Mr. Chapman naturally follows Mr. Ridgway, and divides the Mniotiltidæ found north of Mexico into 16 genera and 55 species. Nineteen subspecies are also recognised. These are all taken in order, and their distribution, haunts, and nesting and other habits are fully described. The curious subject of the intermediate forms between two distinct species of *Helminthophaga* (*H. chrysoptera* and *H. pinús*) is fully discussed.

The volume is furnished with twenty-four coloured plates,

which illustrate every species, besides photographic prints of nests and eggs. The figures of the birds are much reduced in size, so that four or five, or even six, are placed in each plate. They are accurately drawn and sufficiently coloured to enable the species to be recognised at a glance, although in some cases they might perhaps have been a little brighter. Altogether our Foreign Member has produced a charming volume, which, although of course primarily adapted for his American friends, will be much admired by his ornithological associates in England and elsewhere.

6. 'The Condor.'

[The Condor, a Magazine of Western Ornithology. Edited by Joseph Grinnell. Vol. ix. nos. 1-5, 1907.]

'The Condor' is still "wide-awake," and we find much that is of interest to us in its pages, while some of the photographs are excellent. That of a group of Pelicans in which the young one is poking its head down the parent's gullet in quest of food is very good. The Cormorant has been figured feeding its young in exactly the same way. In the barrancas of Patagonia, near the mouth of the Rio Gallegos, Mr. S. Adams, while prospecting for fossils, found the nest of a Condor-bird (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*), and, as in duty bound, sends a description and figure of it to the 'Condor' Journal. We are not aware that it has been previously described, or at any rate figured. The picture of the young Californian Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) in no. 5 is likewise excellent, as is also that of the four young Screech-Owls in the same number. Mr. Clemens, who writes from the shores of Lake Lanao, in the interior of Mindanao, Philippines (2700 ft. alt.), has obtained a specimen of the great monkey-eating Forest-Eagle described by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant as *Pithecophaga jefferyi* (Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xvii), and sends a photograph of the living bird. A half-digested monkey was found in its stomach, so that the bird justifies its name,

7. *Dresser on Palæarctic Birds' Eggs.*

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palæarctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Parts IX., X., pp. 289-360, 8 pls. London: October 1907.]

In these parts the letterpress of Mr. Dresser's work is continued from the genus *Lanius* to *Loxia*, and includes certain Shrikes, the Waxwing, the Flycatchers, Swallows, and Finches in general. The eggs figured are those of *Fringilla*, *Linota*, *Carpodacus*, *Erythrospiza*, *Bucanetes*, *Uragus*, *Pyrrhula*, *Pinicola*, *Loxia*, *Emberiza*, *Calcarius*, *Plectrophanes*, *Certhilauda*, *Otocorys*, *Melanocorypha*, *Alauda*, *Galerita*, *Ammomanes*, *Calandrella*, *Montifringilla*, *Cypselus*, *Dendrocopus*, *Acanthyllis*, *Picoïdes*, *Iynx*, *Alcedo*, *Merops*, *Upupa*, and *Alca impennis*. All these figures come out particularly well, while the two eggs of the Great Auk, from the Chapney Collection, are light-coloured specimens with very rufous markings. The eggs of the Chaffinch, Lesser Redpoll, Cirl Bunting, and Wood-Lark strike us as particularly good, but all are much on the same level of execution, though the darker blue specimens come out rather less clearly.

8. '*The Emu.*'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. vii. pts. 1, 2. Melbourne, 1907.]

These two parts of our contemporary are chiefly devoted to papers on the birds of special localities; but one article at least is of a more general character, namely, that by Mr. A. H. Mattingley on the Heronries at Mattoura, Riverina, New South Wales. Here the author, in company with Mr. J. Ross, took the first recorded eggs of *Mesophoyx plumifera*, besides those of other uncommon species; while in a second communication he deplors the terrible destruction wrought by the plume-hunters, and gives illustrations of the starving young.

Mr. W. H. D. Le Souëf takes us afield to Japan in his account of the nesting of *Chætura caudacuta*, while Messrs.

G. P. Hill, R. Hall, T. B. Austin, and Miss J. A. Fletcher begin or continue their notes on the birds of the Ararat, Townsend River, Talbragar River, and Wilmot districts respectively, the last-named place being in Tasmania.

Mr. F. L. Berney writes on the food of birds, as found in a series of their stomachs, Mr. J. Batey on the Avifauna of a part of the Melbourne district in the early part of the nineteenth century, Mr. G. Horne characterizes a new variety of *Zosterops* (near *Z. cinerea*) as *Z. bowiae*; and an unnamed author describes a trip after bear and walrus to the North Pacific, in a paper which seems to have little or no connexion with Ornithology.

9. Haines on the Birds of Rutland.

[Notes on the Birds of Rutland. By C. Reginald Haines. London: R. H. Porter, 1907. Pp. i-xlvii, 1-175.]

Mr. Haines has given us, in this book, an account of all that is known of the birds of his county, and has carried out his plan with great judgment. The volume is small, yet contains everything that is necessary in a local Avifauna. The author is careful to inform us of the authority on which each of his records rests, while he has taken considerable trouble to collect them from former as well as from present sources. Rutland is a small county, and perhaps will never afford material for a very large work; but we hope that Mr. Haines will find his facts accumulate in the future to a sufficient extent to publish a second and more elaborate edition. Many of the species have at present to be included on the evidence of gamekeepers and taxidermists—a state of things which will, no doubt, be altered as time goes on, and we think that square brackets might have been used more freely in certain cases. The articles on the Raven, Little Owl, and Bonaparte's Gull are of particular interest, but we do not believe that Lord Lilford intended to guarantee the story of the nesting of the Bee-eater, though he certainly gave the details obtained from Mr. A. C. Elliot when writing of the Birds of Northamptonshire.

10. *Hartert's Notes on African Birds.*

[Notes on African Birds. By Dr. Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 484 (1907).]

Several large African collections of birds have lately been received at Tring, but, owing to the pressure of other work, have not yet been thoroughly studied. Dr. Hartert now reviews the species of *Textor* and other Weavers, and describes *Plocepasser mahali ansorgei*, *Malimbus malimbica melanobrephos*, and *Ploceus ocularius po* as new. He is of opinion that too many genera of Ploceidæ are usually recognised, in which we are quite disposed to agree with him.

11. *Hellmayr on Birds from the Rio Madeira, Brazil.*

[On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. W. Hoffmans on the Rio Madeira, Brazil. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xiv. no. 2, p. 343 (1907).]

Mr. Hoffmans (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 491) lately made an expedition to the Rio Madeira, and collected birds at several places on its banks. Mr. Hellmayr has worked out the results in his usual careful and methodical manner.

The specimens are referred to 197 species and subspecies, of which *Cypsnagra ruficollis pallidigula*, *Nemosia flavicollis centralis*, and *Rhamphocænus melanurus amazonum* appear to be now described for the first time. A beautiful plate, drawn by Keulemans, illustrates *Anoplops melanosticta* and *A. hoffmansi*. The collection is very rich in Pipridæ and Formicariidæ. Of the former family it contains good series of the splendid *Pipra nattereri* and *Chiroxiphia regina*, and an adult male of *Neopipo cinnamomea*.

A few more synonyms would have been desirable in the case of some of the species the familiar names of which have been recently altered, e. g., *Myospiza manimbe* and *Deconychura longicauda*. Nor is it correct to call a species "*Granatellus pelzelni pelzelni* ScI." ScIater maintains that he is quite guiltless of having coined such an objectionable compound, and regrets that his name should have been attached to it.

12. *Herman on Bird-Protection in Hungary.*

[The International Convention for the Protection of Birds, concluded in 1902; and Hungary. Budapest, 1907. Pp. i-viii, 1-241.]

This work, which the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture has now ordered to be published in English, is written by Herr Otto Herman, and gives the history of the continental movement for the Protection of Birds and of the progress made hitherto.

After a preliminary meeting of German farmers and foresters in 1868, the matter was taken up by Ministers in Hungary and Austria; they subsequently referred it to their diplomatic representatives, who reported favourably of the attitude of Italy, Switzerland, and France. But further negotiations shewed that the people of Italy were unwilling to follow the lead of their Government. The subject was again raised at the International Economic Congress at Vienna in 1873, when lists were actually brought forward of useful and noxious species, and a formal declaration was issued of agreement between Austria, Hungary, and Italy. A protocol was also drawn up requesting the co-operation of other countries, to which France and Switzerland replied satisfactorily, while Germany and Belgium preferred to wait until a decision had been definitely arrived at upon the lists of useful and noxious birds.

As it happened, the first International Ornithological Congress met at Vienna in 1884, and subsequently the second at Budapest in 1891, at both of which Bird-Protection was further discussed, while finally the third International Congress took place at Paris in 1895. Schedules of species were then drawn up, and matters of all kinds thoroughly discussed, after which differences of opinion arose and Great Britain, Holland, Russia, and Italy withdrew their representatives. Several years were taken to arrange conditions agreeable to the various countries, and finally in 1906 the Convention for Protection of Birds became an accomplished fact, and the signatories were Austria, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Greece, Luxemburg, Monaco, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland.

Mr. Herman gives an introduction to the volume on Birds as found in nature, and adds a further section on the protection given to them in Hungary. But while cordially agreeing with our friends abroad in every effort to preserve birds, we do not consider that new methods are necessary in Britain, where, under the present regulations, few of the smaller birds are in risk of extermination, and the larger species already receive their due meed of protection if not economically injurious. Our endeavours are not always successful, but the result would probably be the same under the Continental rules, if adopted.

13. *Loudon on the Birds of the Semirechinsk Province.*

[Ueber N. A. Sarudny's und B. P. Korejew's 'Die ornithologische Fauna des Semiretschje-Gebietes.' Von H. Baron Loudon. Orn. Jahrb. 1907.]

This is a notice, prepared by Baron Loudon, of an important paper, written in Russian by MM. Sarudny and Korejew, upon the birds of the Province of Semirechinsk, in Western Siberia, which lies south of Lake Balkash. It is mainly based upon a large collection of skins made by M. Korejew during his military service there in 1899–1900. The specimens are referred to 305 species, the names of which (only) are given in Baron Loudon's abstract. There are several (to us) new names in the List, e. g. *Merula relictæ* and *Cyanecula pallidogularis*.

14. *Martorelli on Rare Birds in Italy.*

[Di alcune nuove apparizioni di Uccelli migratori Siberiani ed Americani, e della influenza del moto rotatorio della terra sulla direzione generale delle migrazioni: nota ornitologica del socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. It. Sc. Nat. vol. xlv. 1907.]

The additions to the Avifauna of Italy recorded in the present paper are *Branta nigricans* of North America and *Lanius borealis* of Siberia. Of the former species two specimens were obtained near Mantua in 1906, to which a third was subsequently added from Ospedaletto. Of the latter an example in the flesh was purchased in the bird-market of Milan in 1889. Prof. Martorelli knows well that

there are differences of opinion among ornithologists as to the validity of both these species, and discusses them at full length. He then devotes several pages to a disquisition on the cause of these and other visitants coming from remote parts of the earth's surface, and how far their migrations may be influenced by the rotatory motion of the earth.

15. *Neave on the Birds of North-east Rhodesia.*

[(1) A Journey to North-east Rhodesia during 1904 and 1905. By S. A. Neave. Mem. Manch. Phil. Soc. vol. 51, pt. 2. Manchester, 1907.

(2) On a Collection of Birds from N.E. Rhodesia. By S. A. Neave. Mem. Manch. Phil. Soc. vol. 51, pt. 3. Manchester, 1907.]

We have already called attention (see 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 7-10, and 1907, p. 223) to Mr. Neave's travels in North-eastern Rhodesia in 1904-5 as Naturalist to the African Geodetic Survey. The first of these papers gives us an exact account of his routes in Rhodesia, and the second the results of his researches, so far as regards the Class of Birds.

Mr. Neave's winter-quarters during the rains of 1904-5 were at Petauke, the Chartered Company's most western station in the East Loangwa district, which is called a "charming spot." At other times Mr. Neave seems to have traversed the greater part of the southern half of North-eastern Rhodesia, though there is no map attached to his report to shew his exact routes, and many of his localities are not to be found in any Atlas. The great feature of this part of Rhodesia is the enormous valley of the Loangwa, one of the principal affluents of the Zambesi, which traverses the whole Province from N.E. to S.W. Mr. Neave describes the "three rather distinct types of country" met with as follows:—

"(1) The low country up to 3000 feet, such as is found in the valley of the Loangwa and of the Zambesi at the point where the former river joins it. This is characterized by patches of typically tropical vegetation; by areas of more or less dense thorn scrub; by sandy flats covered with 'Copaiifers mopani' trees, varied by small open spaces, but remarkable for the absence of undergrowth.

“(2) The country from 2000–3000 feet is mainly of a broken and hilly character, and a large part of it, including nearly all the hills, are covered with a thin woodland. Large timber is not usually met with, except on the banks of streams. Here and there are open spaces, locally known as ‘damtos,’ covered in the rainy season with immensely tall grass.

“(3) Above 3000 feet the woodland is of similar character, but less in extent, the open grassy spaces being markedly larger. Here and there in places granite kopjes may be seen. On the high plateau towards the Kafue parts of the country exhibit the well-known park-like character so often described by African travellers. There are also patches of dense jungle, mainly composed of evergreen trees, and usually found on the banks of streams.”

The specimens of birds collected by Mr. Neave are referred to 217 species, which are catalogued according to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's ‘Hand-list,’ with references to Dr. Reichenow's and Mr. W. L. Selater's works and other authorities. Unfortunately, there are very few introductory remarks given to shew us the general character of the Avifauna, but it is obvious, on looking through the list, that a large proportion of the species belong to South-African forms, intermixed with a few from Nyasaland. Two species are described as new—*Cisticola stoehri* and *Hypochoera codringtoni*—and are figured on a coloured plate. The charming little Love-bird *Agapornis lilianæ* was met with “sparingly, in flocks, on the Loangwa.” *Coracias spatulatus* was obtained at Petauke. The field-notes attached to each species are numerous, but very brief.

It must not be forgotten that another large collection of birds was made by Dr. Stoehr (of the Geodetic Survey) in N.E. Rhodesia for the S. African Museum, and was described by Dr. Stoehr and Mr. W. L. Selater in the ‘Journal of the S. African Ornithologists' Union’ in 1906*.

* See their “Notes on a Collection of Birds made in North-east Rhodesia,” Journ. S.A. Orn. Union, vol. ii. p. 83 (1906).

16. *Nelson on the Birds of Yorkshire.*

[The Birds of Yorkshire. Being a Historical Account of the Avifauna of the County. By T. H. Nelson, with the Co-operation of W. Eagle Clarke and F. Boyes. London: A. Brown & Sons, 1907, and at Hull and York. 2 vols., 8vo.]

The long-felt want of a comprehensive book on the Birds of Yorkshire has at last been met by the issue of the two stout volumes before us, the work of Mr. T. H. Nelson, with the co-operation, as will be seen from the title, of Messrs. Eagle Clarke and F. Boyes. Since Thomas Allis wrote his MS. Report "On the Birds of Yorkshire" in 1844, many enthusiasts have worked at the ornithology of the county, one of the chief among them being the late J. Cordeaux; while in 1881, Mr. Clarke, who had commenced a monograph in the 'Transactions of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union,' contributed a list of species to the 'Handbook of the Vertebrate Fauna of Yorkshire.' On his departure to Edinburgh, however, he found himself unable to continue the undertaking, and it was thought advisable to publish an entirely fresh account of the county Avifauna, as an exceptional mass of material had gradually accumulated for some thirty-five years. The task was entrusted by the Yorkshire Union to our fellow-member Mr. Nelson, whose long residence in the shire has enabled him to add largely to the information originally gathered by Messrs. Clarke and W. D. Roebuck, and to present us with the admirable piece of work which it is now our duty and pleasure to notice. The leading ornithologists in the various districts have been most ready to lend their assistance to the author, who has also been able to profit by the labours of his predecessors from Willughby and Tunstall downwards, not forgetting Charles Waterton, the renowned author of 'Essays in Natural History.' In fact, ancient records are one of the features of the book, and in this connexion we may call attention to the accounts of disused Duck-Decoys.

Yorkshire is not only the largest of English counties, but holds pride of place with regard to birds; and this is no matter for astonishment when we remember the varied

character of its moorland, hills, and plains, its extended coast-line, and, above all, the fine cliffs of the Flamborough district, with their immense colonies of sea-fowl. Of old it could boast of breeding-places of the Bearded Tit, Bustard, Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, and Black Tern, while the Goshawk nested in its woods; and we are now informed that the Dotterel may be found in summer in the western portion, and that the Wigeon and Golden-eye have been observed under circumstances that give countenance to the belief that they also may have bred within the county. That the Sand-Grouse did so during the great immigration of 1888 is, of course, notorious. The Hawfinch and Turtle-Dove are reported to have greatly increased in numbers, and the exact range of the Nightingale has been defined with precision, though in claiming for Yorkshire its "extreme northern and north-western boundary," Mr. Nelson has, we believe, overlooked an undoubted case of its occurrence in 1893 at Whittingham, in Northumberland (Hist. Berwickshire Nat. Club, vol. xiv. p. 202).

The Red-breasted Snipe (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) is recorded as new to the county.

The Introduction, largely taken from Messrs. Clarke and Roebuck's former work, is concerned with the physical features of Yorkshire and the status of the various species of birds, with some account of the migration on the coast. The illustrations are abundant, and include coloured figures of the Houbara Bustard, and many views of the Flamborough, Bempton, Buckton, and Speeton Cliffs, and of the method of climbing there practised.

The appendices contain an account of the Protection afforded to Birds in the county and of ancient records.

As regards the drumming of the Snipe, we should like to call the author's attention to the paper by Mr. Bahr in a late number of the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' while on the plate facing p. 740 the Razorbill's egg seems to us decidedly too small.

17. *Nicholson on the Coal-Tits.*

[Notes on the Palæarctic Species of Coal-Tits. By Francis Nicholson. (Extracted from) Mem. and Proc. Manch. Phil. Soc. vol. 50. 21 pp.; 1 pl.]

This article, in which we have a good general review of the birds commonly termed Coal-Tits in England, is evidently sent to us in order that we may draw attention to the description of a new species from Coimbra, in Portugal, discovered by Dr. Vieira. Mr. Nicholson gives a coloured plate of this species, which he names *Parus vieiræ*, in company with what he calls *P. britannicus*.

18. *North on the Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist Australian Museum. Vol. ii. pt. 2. Sydney, 1907.]

We are glad to announce the good progress of this excellent work, to the great merits of which we have already called attention on more than one occasion*. The second part of the second volume continues and finishes the account of the Honey-eaters (Meliphagidæ), one of the most characteristic groups of the Australian Ornis. It also includes histories of such of the Nectariniidæ, Zosteropidæ, Dicæidæ, and Pardalotidæ as are found in Australia and Tasmania. As in former parts, the figures of birds and nests introduced into the text of this work are, in many cases, of very high quality. One of these (p. 208) represents the extremely curious nest of *Cinnyris frenatus*—the only species of the family of Sun-birds (Nectariniidæ) found in Australia, which is one of the foster-mothers of the Bronze Cuckoo (*Lamprococcyx plagosus*).

19. *North on the Birds of New South Wales.*

[Additions to the Avifauna of the County of Cumberland. By Alfred J. North. Rec. of the Australian Museum, vol. vi. pt. 8 (1907).]

To a handbook prepared for the use of the Members of the "Australian Association for the Advancement of Science," in 1898, Mr. North contributed a List of the Birds of the County of Cumberland, N.S.W. (which, we believe, adjoins Sydney), with notes on their haunts, habits,

* See 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 359.

and localities. The present paper forms a supplement to that list, and contains the names of 13 additional species which have been recently ascertained to occur in the county, with short notes on each of them.

20. *Ridgway on the Birds of North and Middle America.*

[The Birds of North and Middle America. By Robert Ridgway. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 50. Part IV. Washington, 1907. 8vo. 973 pp.]

The fourth volume of Mr. Ridgway's great work on the birds of North and Middle America was received in this country in September last. It continues the history of the Passerine Birds to the end of the Cotingidæ, comprising the ten families Turdidæ, Zelodoniidæ, Mimidæ, Sturuidæ, Ploceidæ, Alaudidæ, Oxyrynchidæ, Tyrannidæ, Pipridæ, and Cotingidæ. Of these the Sturnidæ and Ploceidæ might have been omitted, as they are both purely Palæogean types, represented in America in one case only by the Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), which is an occasional straggler to Greenland, and in the other by two Weaver-birds (*Spermestes cucullata* and *Estrilda melpada*), which have been introduced into Porto Rico. There remain eight families, six of which are purely Neogean, while two, the Turdidæ and Alaudidæ, are also met with in the Old World.

Of the family Turdidæ 96 species and subspecies are recognised, the only species left in the genus *Turdus* being *Turdus iliacus*, which is an occasional visitor to Greenland: all the remaining typical Thrushes are transferred to the genus *Planesticus*. In spite of Sclater's protests (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 142), the name *Ixoreus* of Bonaparte is still retained for *Turdus nævius*, whereas Bonaparte states that the bird to which he applied that term (sc. *Tanioptera rufiventris*) "n'est pas une Grive ni même un Chanteur, mais un Volucre Tanioptérien."

Next to the Thrushes come the Mocking-birds (Mimidæ), of which the Author recognises 61 species and subspecies. Following Mr. Lucas he considers this group to be distinct both from the Wrens (Troglodytidæ) and the Thrushes (Turdidæ), with one or other of which they have been

hitherto usually associated. Mr. Ridgway places the peculiar San Domingan form *Calyptophilus* with the Mock-Thrushes. This may be correct, but we should rather be inclined to consider it allied to *Phenicophilus* of the same island, which is usually referred to the Tanagers.

The only true Larks (Alaudidæ) in the New World are Shore-Larks, the Sky-Lark, included in the List, being merely a recent introduction. Of *Otocorys*, as we prefer to call the genus, Mr. Ridgway, following Dr. Dwight, admits no less than 23 subspecies, although he allows that in many cases their differentiation "is necessarily a matter of very great difficulty." As the Shore-Larks are mostly more or less migratory, it is indeed not easy to understand how these many subspecies can remain confined to distinct localities.

With the Alaudidæ terminates the long series of Oscinine Passeres belonging to the American Avifauna, and the Author now proceeds to the still larger Mesomyodian group, which is so highly characteristic of the Ornis of the New World. This he divides into fourteen families, three only of which are Palæogean, while all the eleven others are purely Neogean. Of these the Oxyrhynchidæ, Tyrannidæ, Pipridæ, and Cotingidæ are taken in the present volume. The Tyrannidæ are indeed a hard task; and, as Mr. Ridgway says, "probably no other group of birds is so difficult to study." Five hundred and fifty species, referable to more than eighty genera, are already described, and, if subspecies are to be reckoned, these numbers will, no doubt, be largely increased. Mr. Ridgway introduces numerous alterations in the arrangement of the Tyrants proposed by Selater in the fourteenth volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' and has made many improvements; but the system adopted must still be considered as provisional, the anatomy of many of the forms being entirely unknown.

The arrangement of the Pipridæ and Cotingidæ, which concludes the volume, has been still more seriously modified than that of the Tyrannidæ. Mr. Ridgway's accurate examination has shown that many of the genera in these two groups have been wrongly placed, and that some forms

hitherto referred to the Tyrannidæ should be removed to the Cotingidæ.

In conclusion, we cannot withhold our admiration of the skill and labour which Mr. Ridgway has for so many years bestowed on this important work. In the four volumes now completed there have been fully described no less than 1675 species and subspecies of North and Middle American Birds. Besides this, the characters of all the genera, families, and orders have been most carefully studied and described. But much more remains to be done, for only a little more than half the long series is yet finished. We cordially wish the author health and strength to bring his great work to a happy conclusion.

21. Rothschild on new Cassowaries.

[Some Notes on Cassowaries. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 504 (1907).]

Dr. Rothschild gives fresh descriptions of *Casuarius unipendiculatus mitratus*, *C. jamrachi*, and *C. doggetti* from more adult specimens. He now makes the known species and subspecies of *Casuarius* 28 in number.

A fine coloured drawing is given (plate v.) of the head of *C. jamrachi*, which is "probably from the Admiralty Islands."

22. Rothschild and Hartert's Notes on Papuan Birds.

[Notes on Papuan Birds. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 435 (1907).]

Drs. Rothschild and Hartert continue* their interesting notes on the birds of New Guinea and the adjacent islands. They now write on the Papuan Cuculidæ, and describe *Cacomantis excitus* (New Guinea) and *Eudynamis orientalis alberti* (Solomon Isl.) as new, and pass on to the Strigidæ, amongst which *Strix flammea meeki*, from the north-east coast of British New Guinea, is characterized as a new subspecies.

* See 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 302.

23. *Rothschild and Hartert on Meek's Collections from British New Guinea.*

[List of Collections of Birds made by A. S. Meek in the Mountains on the Upper Aroa River and on the Angabunga River, British New Guinea. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 447 (1907).]

This memoir gives us an account of the remarkable collections of birds made by Mr. Rothschild's excellent collector, Meek, on the mountains of the Upper Aroa River and on the Angabunga River, in British New Guinea. The specimens are referred to 197 species and subspecies, amongst which *Hypotaenidia bruchypus alberti*, *Clytomias insignis corti*, *Edoliisoma montana minus*, *Myzomela obscura meeki*, and *Ptilotis meekiana* (all from New Guinea) are described as new. *Pæcilodryas leucops albicularis* (from Cape York) is also new. Mr. Meek procured on the Aroa River a specimen of the remarkable Duck *Salvadorina waigiensis*. There are now five examples of this bird in the Tring Museum.

24. *Theobald on "Economic Ornithology."*

[Economic Ornithology in relation to Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry. By Fred. V. Theobald, M.A., Vice-Principal and Zoologist of the S.E. Agricultural College. Science Progress, no. 6, p. 263.]

Economic Ornithology is a branch of our subject which is not often alluded to, except casually, in the pages of this Journal, and we are grateful to Mr. Theobald for calling our attention to it. "There are many people," he writes, "who have a sentimental love for birds and say 'none should be destroyed.' Others, who have lost much money by their ravages, say 'destroy them all.'" The opinion of ornithologists in general is certainly largely in favour of the first of these alternatives; but it may, perhaps, be regretfully allowed that there are some few exceptions required to the general rule of preservation. Mr. Theobald goes through the principal birds of the British List with much fairness, and we agree with many of his conclusions, though others are not quite satisfactory. What would be the state of our

pastures, he pertinently asks, if there were no birds? Were it not for our Rooks, Jackdaws, Starlings, Plovers, and Gulls the pastures would be rendered bare by subterranean insects. But those who are interested in the question should read Mr. Theobald's article, and may refer to some of the eighteen authorities on the subject which he recommends for study. We observe, however, that he does not mention what has been done in America, where the Agricultural Department at Washington has performed an enormous amount of excellent work relating to this important question.

25. Townshend and Allen on the Birds of Labrador.

[Birds of Labrador. By Charles W. Townshend, M.D., and Glover M. Allen. Proc. Boston Soc. of N. H. vol. xxxiii, no. 7 (Boston, 1907).]

The enormous peninsula called Labrador, which lies between Hudson's Bay on the one side and the Atlantic on the other, has had many visitors who have studied its birds and have written more or less extended notes about them. The authors of the present memoir made a summer excursion up the east coast in 1896, which, although brief, has served to give an idea of the country to which they have devoted their attention, and has been of much use to them in the composition of the present memoir.

A well-written introduction treats of the topography, faunal areas, and ornithological history of Labrador and of other allied topics. George Cartright, of Newark, England, appears to have been the earliest writer on the birds, and has given a vivid account of them, in the course of which he has described the capture of a Great Auk. The illustrious Audubon made a special expedition up the coast in the summer of 1833, and achieved good results for his great work. Since then Storer, Bryant, Coues, Verrill, Brewster, Packard, and many other ornithologists have visited Labrador, and added more or less to our knowledge of its Avifauna.

The authors summarize all the previous records of the birds of Labrador in an "Annotated List" of the species and subspecies arranged according to the American Check-list and provided with abundant field-notes. They

make the authenticated species and subspecies 213 in number, besides which there are 44 "doubtful and erroneous" and 2 extinct (the Great Auk and the Labrador Duck). The Shore-Lark of Labrador was found to be an "abundant summer resident along the coast, breeding wherever there is barren ground." It is referred to typical *Otocorys alpestris*, though other authorities have recorded the Labrador form as *O. a. praticola*. A single example of the Turkey-Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was obtained in Labrador in November 1906.

VIII.—Letters, Extracts, Notes, &c.

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRs,—In the number of 'The Ibis' for July last (p. 378), Mr. Scott B. Wilson, among the results of his collecting-trip to the Eastern Pacific, announces the discovery of an interesting new Parrakeet of the genus *Coriphilus* (*C. cyaneus*). On examining his description and Mr. Frohawk's figure of the supposed new species, I am of opinion that what has taken place is simply a renaming of the *Psittacus cyaneus* of Sparrman (Mus. Carlss. vol. ii. pl. 27), a name relegated long since to the synonyms of *Coriphilus taitianus* (Gm.). This conclusion is corroborated by the statements of both authors, which shew the entire absence of any white markings, as well as the dark colouring of the iris, bill, and feet, which in *C. taitianus* are, like the iris, red. Sparrman describes the bill as "*pallidum, apice fuscum*," but it may be supposed that such a colouring had originated in the well-known way from the desiccation of the corneous stratum. We know of specimens belonging to this species the underparts of which are red, while the white colour in the plumage is wanting or is confined to the throat. The first stage is shown by "La Perruche Sparrman" of Levaillant (Hist. Nat. Perr. vol. i. p. 128, pl. 66), the latter by the figure which Messrs. Forbes and Robinson give of a variety of *C. taitianus* (Bull. Liverpool Mus. vol. i. p. 6, pl. 2). Kuhl (Consp.